

## Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

OMB-01 TRSE-00 /056 W

-----181132Z 056747 /20

R 180604Z MAY 77

FM AMEMBASSY MANILA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9862

INFO SECDEF WASHDC

CINCPAC

CINCPACREPPHIL

C O N F I D E N T I A L MANILA 7544

CINCPAC ALSO FOR POLAD

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR, RP

SUBJECT: US SECURITY ASSISTANCE TO THE PHILIPPINES

REF: (A) MANILA 7236 (B) 76 MANILA 7472

1. IN REVIEWING THE WRITTEN TEXT OF THE FORMAL REMARKS  
DELIVERED BY UNDERSECRETARY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS INGLES  
AT THE MUTUAL DEFENSE BOARD ANNIVERSARY MEETING MAY 14,  
INGLES' COMMENTS ABOUT THE INADEQUACY OF U.S. MILITARY  
ASSISTANCE CARRY A SHARPER EDGE THAN WAS APPARENT WHEN  
ORALLY DELIVERED (REF A).

2. PERTINENT SECTION OF INGLES' STATEMENT IS AS FOLLOWS:

"...ON A PREVIOUS OCCASION, WE EXPRESSED THE VIEW THAT  
OUR MUTUAL DEFENSE, MILITARY BASES AND MILITARY ASSISTANCE  
AGREEMENTS AMPLY JUSTIFY MUTUAL ASSISTANCE TO SHORE UP  
OUR MILITARY CAPABILITY TO COUNTER NOT ONLY DIRECT BUT ALSO  
INDIRECT AGGRESSION. WHILE THE PRESIDENT OF THE  
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PHILIPPINES HAS STATED THAT HE DOES NOT FORESEE THE NEED  
FOR THE ASSISTANCE OF FOREIGN TROOPS EXCEPT IN THE CASE  
OF A MAJOR INVASION, IT STANDS TO REASON THAT IN SERIOUS  
CASES OF SUBVERSION OR INSURGENCY WE SHOULD NOT BE DENIED  
THE ARMS OR MATERIEL TO DEFEND OURSELVES. THIS, I BELIEVE,  
IS THE VERY ESSENCE OF SELF-RELIANCE.

I NEED NOT BELABOR THE FACT THAT THE SCANTY IMPLEMENTATION OF THE MILITARY ASSISTANCE AGREEMENT HAS FALLEN FAR SHORT NOT ONLY OF OUR ASSUMPTIONS AND EXPECTATIONS BUT ALSO OF ITS EXPRESS PROVISIONS..."

3. IT IS SOMETIMES DIFFICULT TO PUT REMARKS BY INGLES IN PROPER PERSPECTIVE. IT WILL BE RECALLED THAT AT THE 18TH ANNIVERSARY MEETING OF THE MDB, INGLES DELIVERED SUCH A SOUR AND INTEMPERATE SPEECH THAT SOME AFP OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE EXPRESSED SURPRISE THAT SUCH COMMENTS WOULD BE MADE IN THE MDB FORUM (REF B). WE CONCLUDED AT THE TIME THAT INGLES' SPEECH WAS PUT TOGETHER BY THE DFA PRESS SECTION.

4. WHATEVER THE BACKGROUND OF INGLES' NEGATIVE REMARKS ABOUT U.S. MILITARY ASSISTANCE AT THIS YEAR'S MDB MEETING, IT IS NOTEWORTHY THAT JUSMAG HAS BEEN RECEIVING MORE POSITIVE SIGNALS. ON APRIL 28, 1977, DEFENSE SECRETARY ENRILE SENT BGEN. MAPP OF JUSMAG THE FOLLOWING LETTER: "IN BEHALF OF THE DEPARTMENT OF NATIONAL DEFENSE AND THE PHILIPPINE GOVERNMENT IN GENERAL, I WISH TO EXPRESS MY GRATITUDE TO YOU AND THE USG FOR THE IMMEDIATE RESPONSE TO OUR REQUESTS FOR ASSISTANCE IN ACCELERATING AVAILABILITY OF DEFENSE MATERIEL URGENTLY NEEDED BY OUR ARMED FORCES. THE DEPARTMENT HAS BEEN MONITORING CLOSELY THE COOPERATION BETWEEN THE CHIEF OF STAFF, AFP AND JUSMAG-PHIL ON THE VARIOUS PROJECTS AS MENTIONED IN YOUR LETTER DATED APRIL 14, 1977. THE RESULTS ARE MOST REASSURING, AND DUE, IN A LARGE MEASURE, TO YOUR UNTIRING EFFORTS AND  
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PERFORMANCE. ONCE AGAIN, OUR TWO GOVERNMENTS HAVE SHOWN THAT COOPERATION CHARACTERISTIC OF THE WARM FRIENDSHIP AND MUTUAL INTEREST ON DEFENSE EXISTS BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES. THAN YOU AND MY WARMEST PERSONAL REGARDS,  
SIGNED VERY TRULY YOURS, JUAN PONCE ENRILE."

5. THE EVENT WHICH MIGHT CLARIFY THESE DIVERGENT SIGNALS WOULD BE A BREAKDOWN IN THE CEASEFIRE IN THE MUSLIM SOUTH. TO BETTER UNDERSTAND THE MILITARY ASSISTANCE AND SALES ISSUES WE MIGHT FACE IN SUCH A SITUATION, WE ARE CURRENTLY ANALYZING 1) THE AMOUNTS AND TYPES OF MATERIEL AND EQUIPMENT IN THE MAP AND FMS PIPELINES WHICH IS LIKELY TO ARRIVE IN THE PHILIPPINES OVER THE NEXT SEVERAL MONTHS (TO DETERMINE OUR ASSISTANCE PROFILE IN THIS SENSITIVE PERIOD) AND 2) WHERE THE AFP IS MOST DEFICIENT IN MATERIAL AND EQUIPMENT AND MIGHT COME RUNNING TO US WITH REQUESTS FOR SPECIAL HELP. THIS EXERCISE MAY HELP US TO DEFINE MORE CLEARLY THAT FINE LINE BETWEEN AN ASSISTANCE PROGRAM WHICH DEMONSTRATES

CONTINUED U.S. GOOD FAITH IN SUPPORTING LEGITIMATE AFP  
REQUIREMENTS AND A BROADER U.S. MILITARY ASSISTANCE ROLE,  
WHICH WE DO NOT WANT, IN AN INTERNAL PROBLEM (MINDANAO)  
FOR WHICH A MEANINGFUL SOLUTION IS MORE POLITICAL AND  
ECONOMIC THAN MILITARY.  
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## Message Attributes

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**Review Markings:**  
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